Crops	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Ajwain	1.63	1.63	1.63
Other seed spices	7.99	7.99	7.99
Clove	1.37	1.81	1.81
Nutmeg	2.18	2.53	2.53
Tamarind	182.34	179.31	179.31
Cinnamon	1.66	1.66	1.66
Tejpat	14.61	14.62	14.62
Others	0.10	0.14	0.14
TOTAL	2863.04	3721.71	3817.90

(b) World trade in spices is in the order of 7.50 lakh tones valued at 1650 million US$. India commands a formidable position in the world spice trade with 43% share in volume and 31% in value (2005-06).

(c) to (f) In the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce's 80th Report, on functioning of the Spices Board, the committee has recommended that a Spices Development Authority should be set up with the larger mandate covering research, production value addition, domestic self sufficiency and export promotion. Since the National Horitculture Mission, the Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Developments, the India Institute of Spices Research and the Spices Board are looking after the production, research and export promotion, it does not appear to be necessary to set up a Spices Development Authority.

Enhanced cooperation in high technology areas

2445. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking major steps towards enhancing cooperation in high technology areas, to improve trade with different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) how it would be useful to our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government has been taking several steps to enhance cooperation in High Technology areas to improve trade with different countries such as USA, Russia, European Countries and Japan, etc. Some of the sectors identified as thrust areas in High Technology are Information Technology, Bio Technology, Nano Technology, Defence Technology and Space Sector. These issue are discussed in the meetings of Joint Commission/Joint Committee or the Working Groups to facilitate business to business contact and to suggest means of enhancing trade. Some these major steps in the last three years are:—

* Launching in India US High Technology Cooperative Group (HTCG) in 2003.
* India-Israel Initiative on Industrial R&D in 2005-06.
* Decision to launch a consultation mechanism to facilitate bilateral high technology trade (during the visit of PM to Japan in 2006).

Technology Summits are also organized in collaboration with our Industry Chambers to project India as an R&D hub. Similarly, India is also participating in similar technology events abroad. These measures are expected to foster cooperation and increase India's trade with other countries.

World Economic Forum meeting at Davos

2446. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the highlights of the recently concluded meeting of World Economic Forum at Davos, particularly relating to removal of farm subsidies by the EU and other Western countries;

(b) whether any consensus or agreement has been arrived at in this conference, on the question of reduction/abolition of farm subsidies by US and EU countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?